

Saving water around the home is simple and smart.

The average household spends as much as \$500 per year on its water and sewer bill, but could save about \$170 per year by retrofitting with water-efficient fixtures and incorporating water-saving practices.



## Let WaterSense® show you how to save water—and your wallet.

**H**ow much money you save will depend on the cost of water where you live, but it makes sense that using less water lowers your utility bill. More importantly, using less water preserves this limited resource for generations to come.



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# Inside the Home

Toilets are the single largest water user in a home. A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons of water per day, and it is estimated that nearly 20 percent of all toilets leak.

## Get Flush With Savings

- Consider replacing your older toilet with a WaterSense labeled high-efficiency model that uses 20 percent less water and performs as well as or better than standard models. Compared to a 3.5 gallons per flush toilet, a WaterSense labeled toilet could save a family of four more than \$90 annually on their water bill, and \$2,000 over the lifetime of the toilet.
- Check for toilet leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the bowl within 15 minutes. (Make sure to flush as soon as the test is done, since food coloring may stain the tank.)

## Accessorize Your Faucet

- Installing a simple aerator is one of the most cost-effective ways to save water—you can double the faucet's

efficiency without sacrificing performance. For best results, purchase an aerator with the WaterSense label later in 2008.

- Repair dripping faucets and showerheads. A drip rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year.

## Clean Up With Savings

- A full bathtub can require up to 70 gallons of water, while taking a 5-minute shower uses only 10 to 25 gallons.
- Savings from turning off the tap while you brush your teeth or shave can really add up.

## Lighten Your Loads

- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes or lower the water settings for smaller loads.
- Replace your old washing machine with a high-efficiency, ENERGY STAR® labeled model, which uses up to 50 percent less water and electricity.

The average single-family suburban home uses at least 30 percent of its water for outdoor irrigation and as much as 70 percent in dry climates. Some experts estimate that more than 50 percent of landscape water is wasted due to evaporation, wind, or overwatering.

## Water When Needed

- Water your lawn or garden during the cool morning hours to reduce evaporation.
- Look for sprinklers that produce droplets—not mist—or use soaker hoses or trickle irrigation for trees and shrubs.
- Set sprinklers to water lawns and gardens only—check that you're not watering the street or sidewalk.
- Try not to overwater your landscaping—learn plants' water needs and water different types appropriately.

## Grow Green Grass

- Don't overfertilize. You will increase the grass's need for water.
- Raise your lawn mower blade to at least 3 inches. Taller grass promotes deeper

roots, shades the root system, and holds soil moisture better than a closely cropped lawn.

## Garden With Care

- Plant climate-appropriate species. Try native plants, which don't require as much water, and group plants together by water requirements.
- Use mulch around trees and plants to help reduce evaporation and control water-stealing weeds.

# Outside the Home

